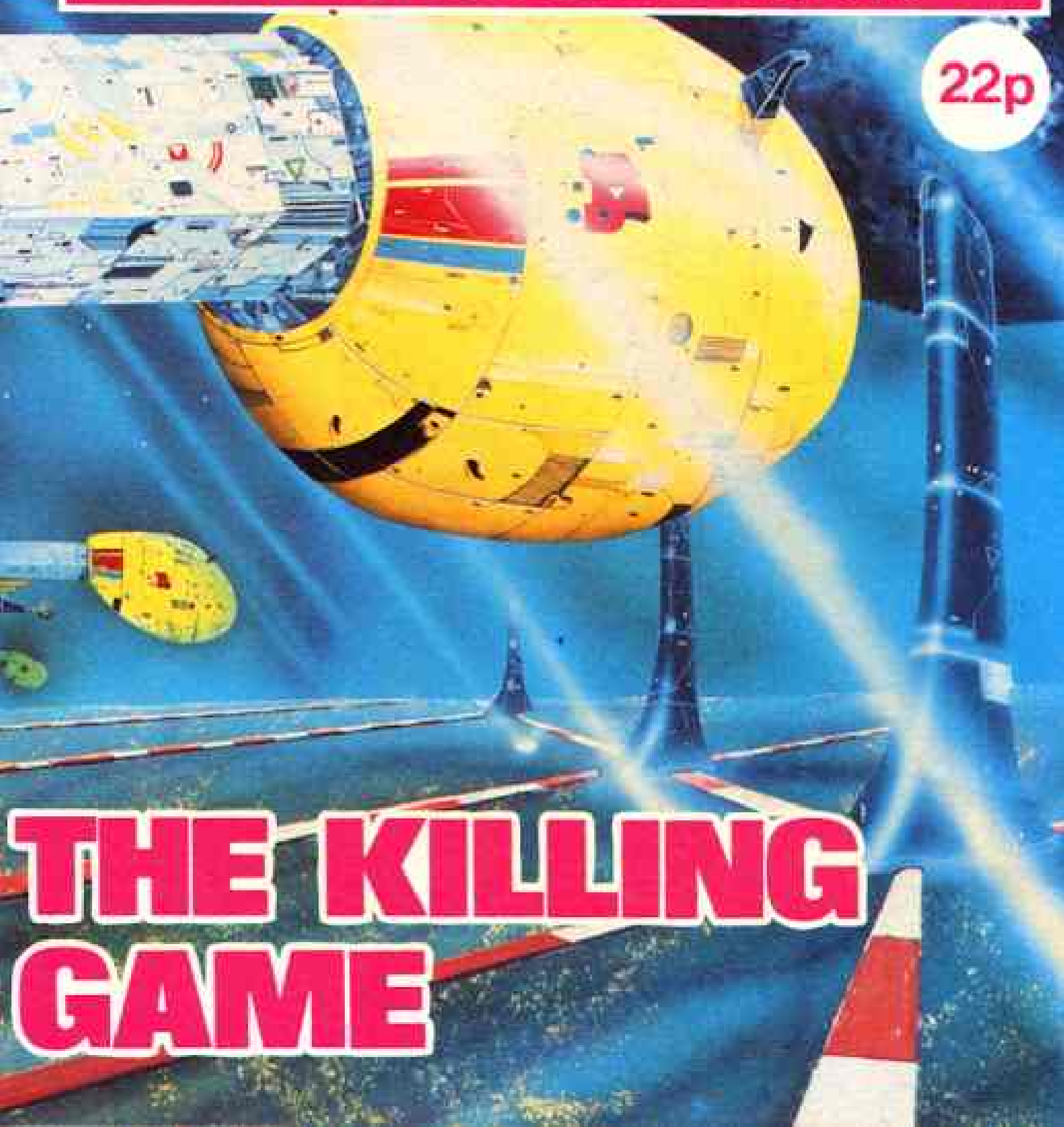


STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 148

22p



THE KILLING GAME

STARBLAZER

DURING THE COURSE OF THE LONG STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE EARTH FEDERATION AND THE RUTHLESS KRELL EMPIRE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY WAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. AGENTS FROM BOTH SIDES FOUGHT TO ENSURE THAT NO NEW ADVANCE REMAINED A SECRET LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE ITS INVENTORS A DECISIVE ADVANTAGE. WHEN A KRELL SCIENTIST CAME UP WITH A REVOLUTIONARY NEW PROPULSION SYSTEM, EARTH'S SPACE ASSAULT SERVICE HAD TO BE CALLED IN. BUT EVEN THEY DID NOT GUESS THAT THE RACE WAS ALREADY ON TO PREVENT THE ULTIMATE CATASTROPHE...

THE KILLING GAME

DEEP INSIDE THE KRELL EMPIRE, THE
SPACE ASSAULT SERVICE STRUCK.




THE KRELL ELITE GUARD WERE TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE.

EARTHERS, AFTER THE
PROPULSION SYSTEM!

DON'T HARM THE SCIENTIST
OR THE PROTOTYPE.

HURRY! WE MUST GET BACK
TO THE FREIGHTER.

I CANNOT ALLOW
THEM TO TAKE HIM.




NOW THE SCIENTIST CAN
TELL NO SECRETS!

I'LL GET HIM!

NO TIME! WE CANNOT RISK
LOSING THE PROTOTYPE.

IT WAS NIGHT IN THE KRELL CITY —



HEAD FOR THE CARGO
TERMINAL! OUR FREIGHTER IS
DUE TO LAND IN 30
SECONDS . . . AND IT WON'T
WAIT.

THEY STILL HAVE THE PROTOTYPE.
I MUST STAY ON THEIR TRAIL.

THE CAREFULLY LAID PLAN SWUNG INTO ACTION —

I MUST GET ABOARD
BEFORE THEY TAKE OFF.

THE EARTHERS WILL
PAY FOR THIS.

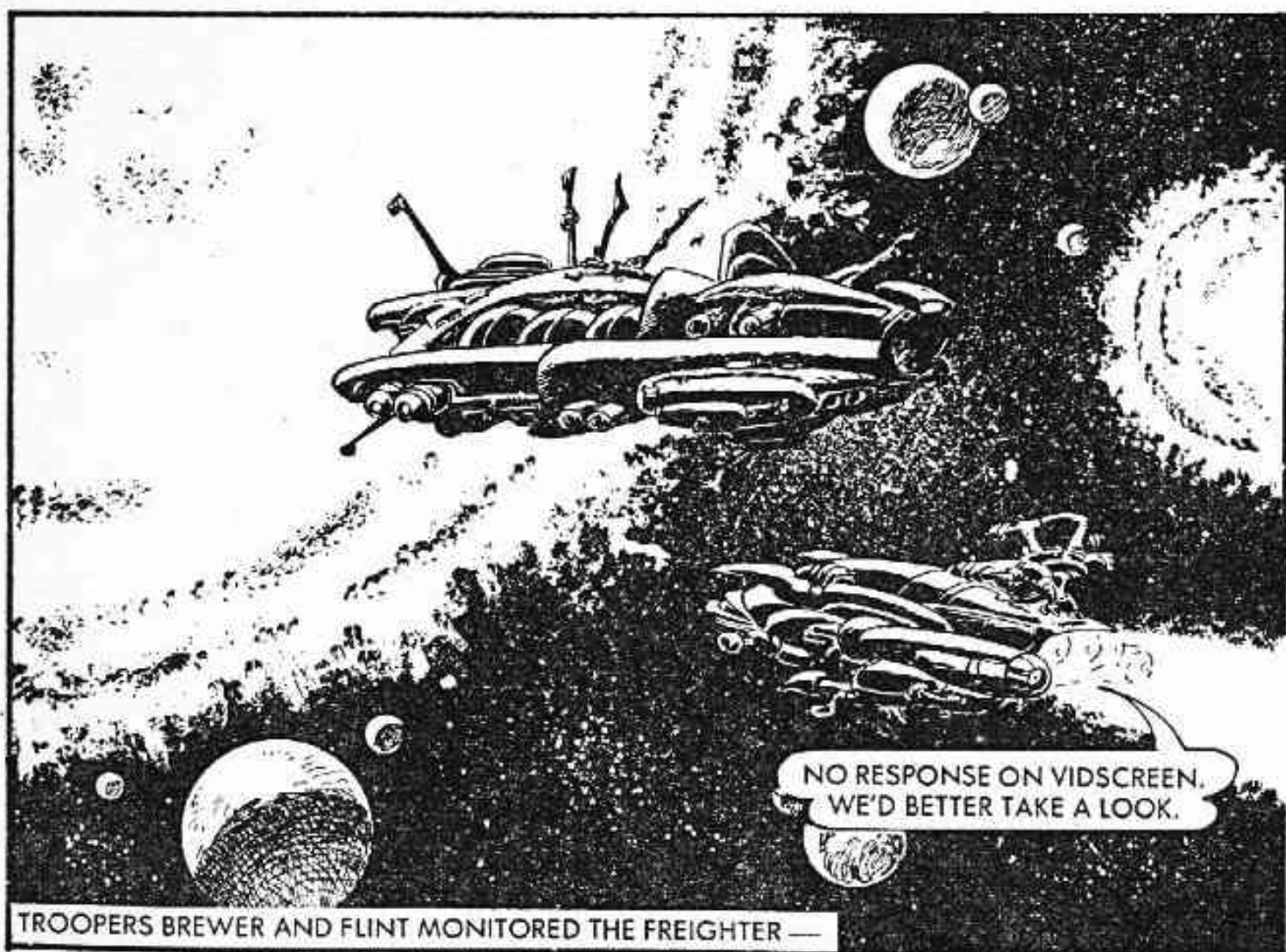
THE FREIGHTER MADE FOR NEUTRAL SPACE.



WAITING AT THE DEEP SPACE RENDEZVOUS WAS AN S.A.S. SHIP —

IT'S THE FREIGHTER ALL RIGHT,
BUT SHE'S BADLY OFF COURSE.

AND SHE'S DANGEROUSLY NEAR
THAT DOUBLE STAR.



NO RESPONSE ON VIDSCREEN.
WE'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK.


TROOPERS BREWER AND FLINT MONITORED THE FREIGHTER —

THEY CONNECTED A DOCKING TUBE AND CROSSED OVER —



FLINT FORGOT THE FIRST LAW OF SURVIVAL — LOOK OUT FOR BOOBY TRAPS.

WH... WHAT?



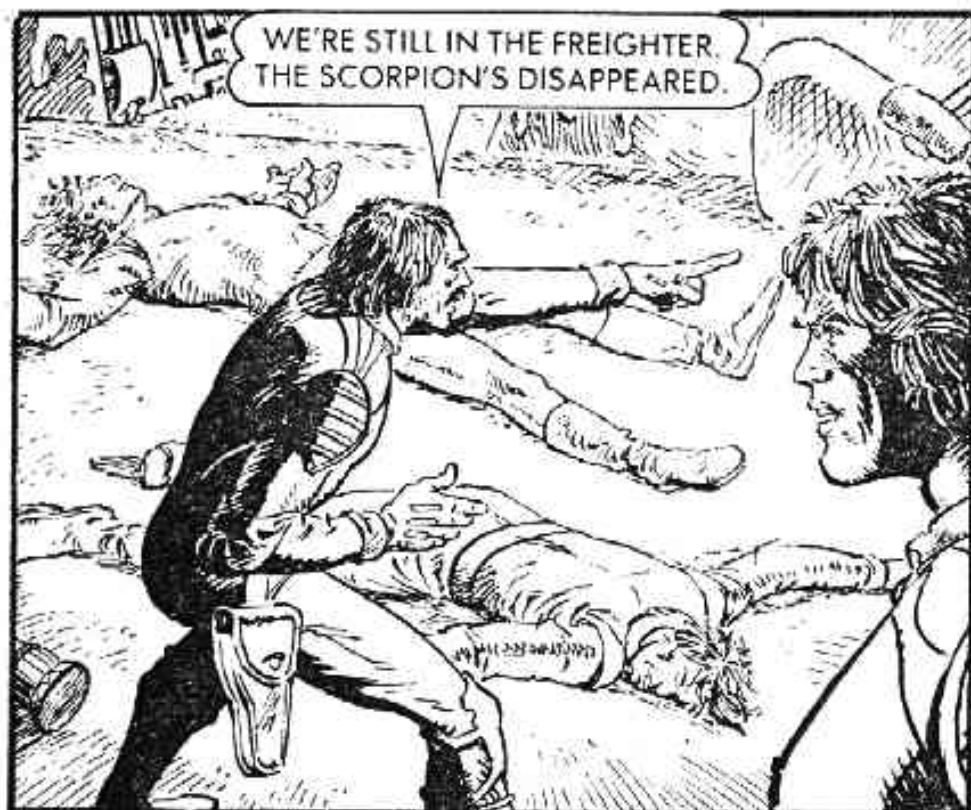
STRANGE THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN —

THEY'RE ALIVE!



A KRELL!





EVERYTHING RETURNED TO NORMAL —

IT WORKED! THE TEMPORAL
WARP UNIT IS DESTROYED.

LET'S GET OFF THE SHIP BEFORE IT REALLY
DOES FALL INTO THE DOUBLE STAR.

THE WARP UNIT SHOWED US WHAT
HAPPENED. THE SCORPION HAS THE
PROTOTYPE. WE MUST GET IT BACK.



THE SCORPION MUST HAVE USED AN
ESCAPE POD TO LEAVE THE FREIGHTER.

ACCORDING TO THE COMPUTER THERE'S ONLY
ONE SHIP CLOSE ENOUGH TO HAVE PICKED HIM
UP ...

... THAT ONE!

THAT SHIP BELONGS TO TUNGAS,
THE ARMS MANUFACTURER. IT'S
ONE OF THE BEST IN THE GALAXY.



ROARING THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE THE CRAFT SMASHED INTO THE PLANET —



THE CRAFT WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED —




WE MADE IT BUT THE
SHIP IS IN BAD SHAPE.



THE DRIVE UNIT'S FUNCTIONAL.

A SPACECRAFT. LOOKS LIKE
A KRELL SHIP TO ME!
























































































IT'S KRELL ALL RIGHT.
ONE OF THEIR PAV'S.

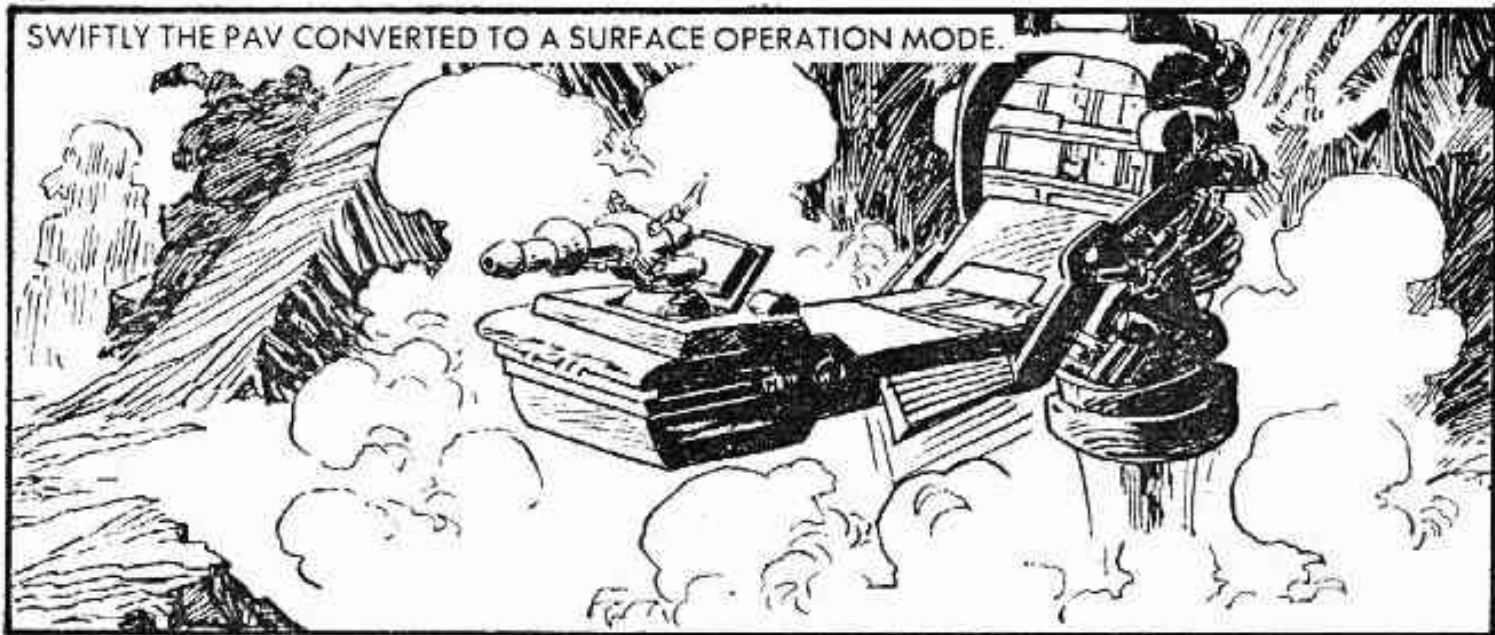
MUST HAVE BEEN SENT TO
CHECK ON THE CRASH.

PAV'S — PROTEUS ATTACK VEHICLES — MULTI-
ROLE WEAPONS, CAPABLE OF CHANGING TO
SUIT DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

AS THE PAV DESCENDED, HOLOGRAPHIC DISGUISE LAYERS PEELED BACK
TO REVEAL THE COMPLICATED EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO ADAPT THE
CRAFT —



SWIFTLY THE PAV CONVERTED TO A SURFACE OPERATION MODE.

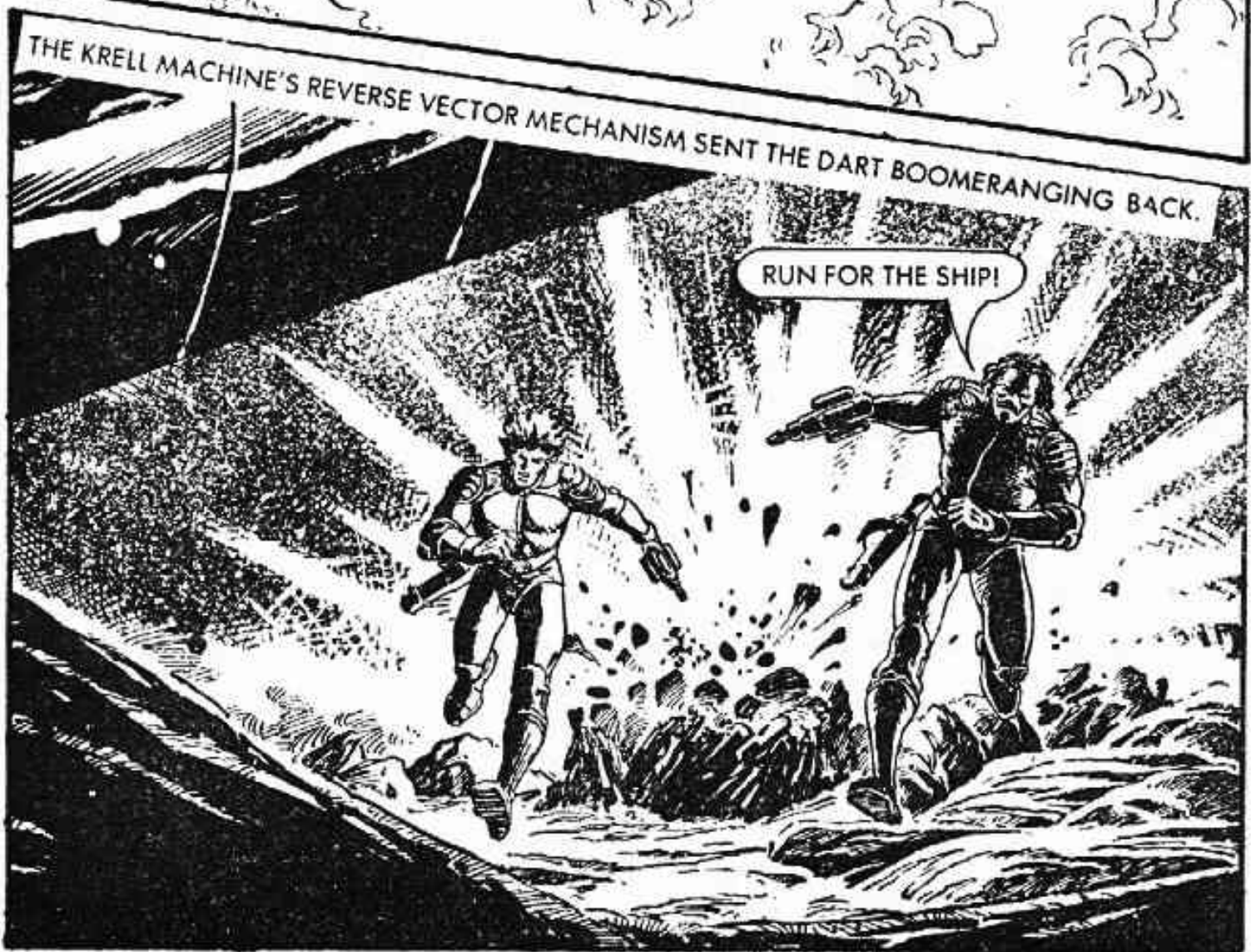
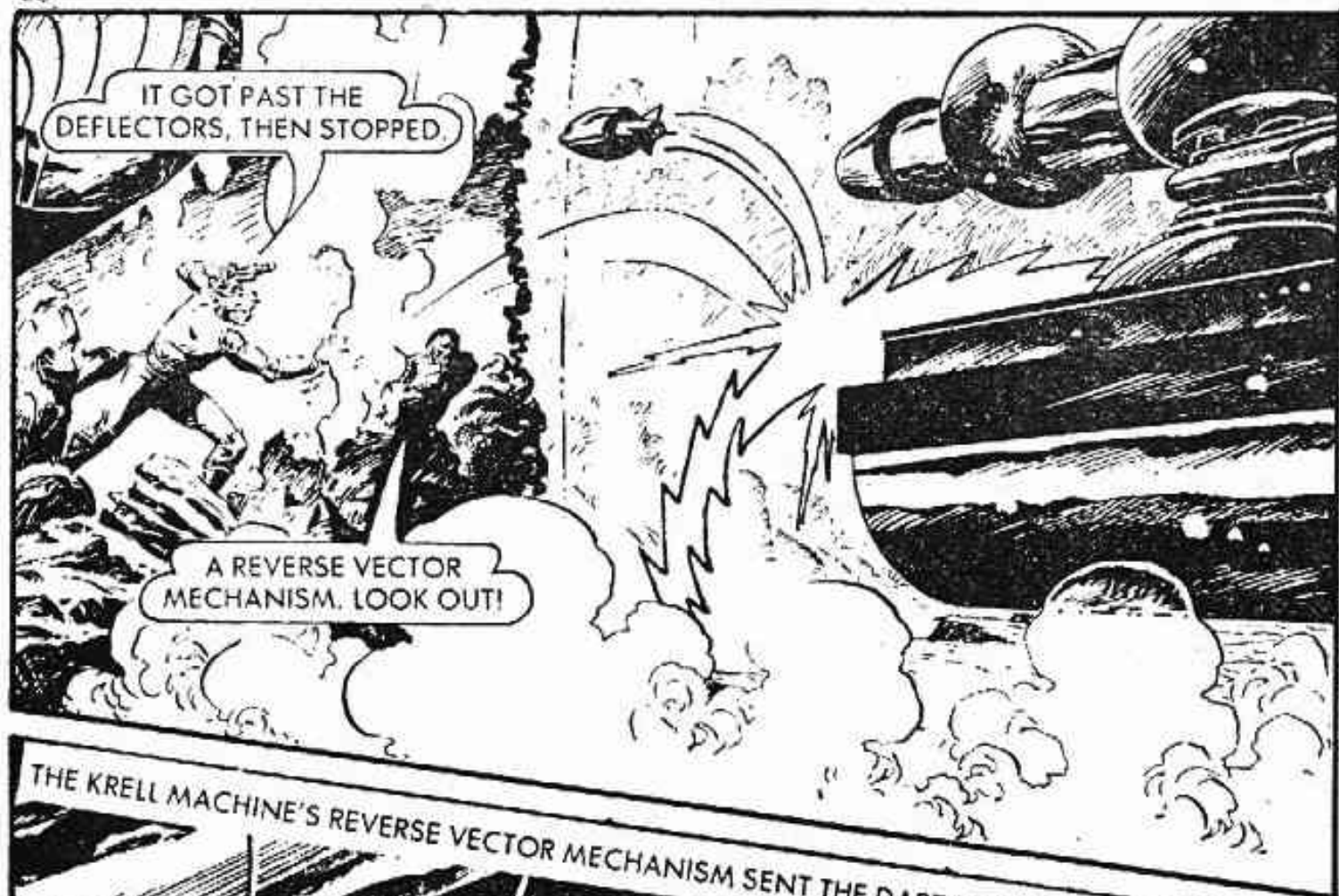



FOR BREWER AND FLINT, IT WAS NO GAME —



LOOK OUT!







THE DRIVE UNIT IS INTACT. IF WE CAN GET IT TO FIRE, WE MAY STAND A CHANCE.

WHEN THE PAV WAS IN THE PATH OF THE ION JETS, FLINT SWITCHED ON.

THE DEFLECTOR SHIELD WON'T TAKE THAT PUNISHMENT.

THAT'S FINISHED. NOW TO GET OUT OF HERE.

WE'RE NOT TOO FAR FROM POLIS III'S ONLY CITY.

THEY APPROACHED THE CITY WARILY —

THERE MUST BE A LINK BETWEEN
TUNGAS, THE KRELL, THE SCORPION
AND THE NEW PROPULSION SYSTEM.



THEY ASKED ABOUT TUNGAS IN THE SPACERS'
BARS AROUND THE CITY



BUT CURIOSITY WASN'T HEALTHY ON THE FRONTIER PLANETS.







QUICK, THE PLASMA HOOPS!

THE IONISED GAS OF PLASMA HOOPS ENCIRCLED AND TRAPPED THE VICTIMS.



TWO GUARDS ARRIVED—

THESE TWO WERE ASKING
ABOUT TUNGAS.

COME ON, EARTHERS. TUNGAS
WILL WANT TO SEE YOU FOR HIMSELF!

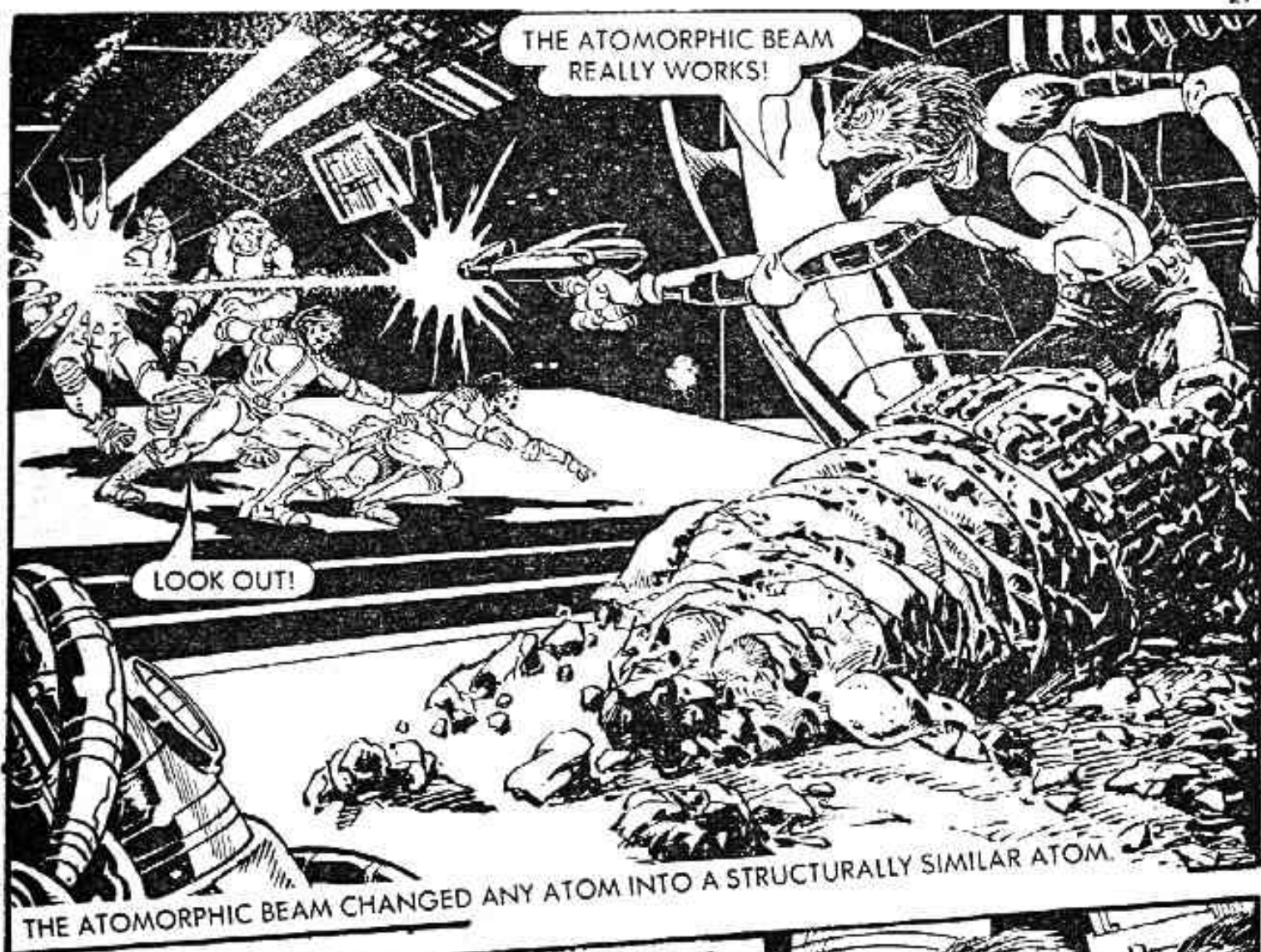
THEY WERE TAKEN TO HQ—

AHH . . . THE TERRANS! WELL,
SCORPION, WHAT NOW?

PASS ME THAT PHASER!

YOUR USE IS OVER, TUNGAS.







BREWER AND FLINT RECLAIMED THEIR OWN WEAPONS—



THE KRELL WERE THE SCORPION'S CREW FROM HIS PERSONAL CRUISER.



GOOD, MY SHIP HAS ARRIVED. BRING THESE TWO ALONG FOR QUESTIONING.



TAKE THE PRISONERS TO THE LABS, AND SET A COURSE FOR AUS IN THE UPSILON-7 SYSTEM.


IN THE LABORATORY ABOARD THE CRUISER.

THIS IS THE CHAMBER IN WHICH I BUILT UP IMMUNITY TO THE NEURO-VIRUS. THAT WAS WHY I WAS UNAFFECTED WHEN YOUR COLLEAGUES WERE KILLED.

MY MIND PROBE HAS SHOWN THAT YOU KNOW LESS THAN I THOUGHT ABOUT THE NEW PROPULSION SYSTEM.

OUR COMPUTERS HAVE CALCULATED THAT, IF A MISSILE ARMED WITH PURE NOSTRITE IS AIMED INTO A SUITABLE STAR WITH THE VELOCITY WHICH THE NEW PROTOTYPE CAN ACHIEVE, IT WILL SET UP A CHAIN REACTION OF NOVAS.

NOSTRITE WAS A HIGHLY UNSTABLE AND EXPLOSIVE COMPOUND.



HALF THE GALAXY WOULD BE
DESTROYED... THE FEDERATION
HALF. WE HAVE THE ULTIMATE
WEAPON. WE CAN FORCE A TOTAL
SURRENDER.

APPROACHING AUS. LANDING CO-
ORDINATES SET FOR NOSTRITE
REFINING PLANT.

THE SCORPION RELEASED A NERVE GAS —

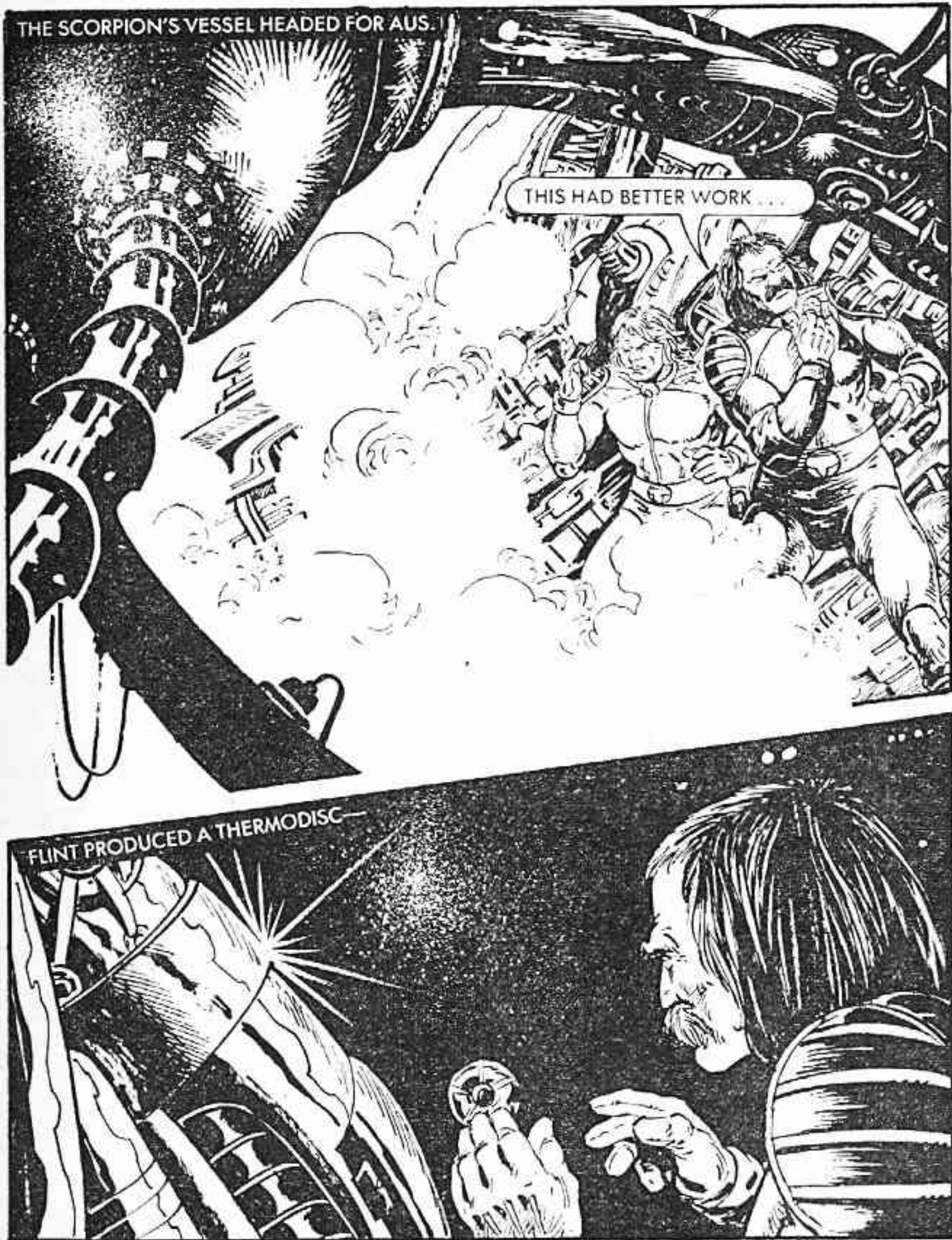
AUS IS AN UNINHABITED
PLANET. TUNGAS HAD A
COMPLETELY AUTOMATED
FACTORY HERE TO REFINE
NOSTRITE. I AM ABOUT
TO COLLECT ENOUGH TO
ARM THE MISSILE!

IT ONLY REMAINS LETHAL FOR A
SHORT TIME, BUT BY THEN YOU'LL BE
DEAD.

THE SCORPION'S VESSEL HEADED FOR AUS.


THIS HAD BETTER WORK ...

FLINT PRODUCED A THERMODISC—



THAT THERMODISC HAS
GOT TO GO OFF

THE THERMODISC PUNCTURED THE BULKHEAD AND
THE LAB DEPRESSURISED, DISPELLING THE LETHAL MIST.



ARMED AGAIN, BREWER AND FLINT SET OUT AFTER THE SCORPION.

WHAT'S THAT THING
BEYOND THE FENCE?

-DANGER-
•NOSTRITE•
HIGHLY UNSTABLE
ENTRY FORBIDDEN

4-55
FIVE



IT IS AN ARACHNOID, A ROBOTIC
DEVICE, TUNGAS' AUTOMATIC GUARD.

THE SCORPION'S DISABLED IT BY
USING THE ATOMORPHIC BEAM TO
TURN THE METAL TO MERCURY.



BUT THEIR WEAPONS HAD NO EFFECT.

WATCH OUT!

THE BLASTERS
DON'T... UGGH!

THEY'VE BEEN BUILT TO WITHSTAND
ORDINARY WEAPONS.

GET YOUR COMMUNICATOR.
PERHAPS WE CAN DEAL WITH THEM
WITHOUT WEAPONS.

THE ARACHNOID SEIZED FLINT IN A CRUSHING GRIP.

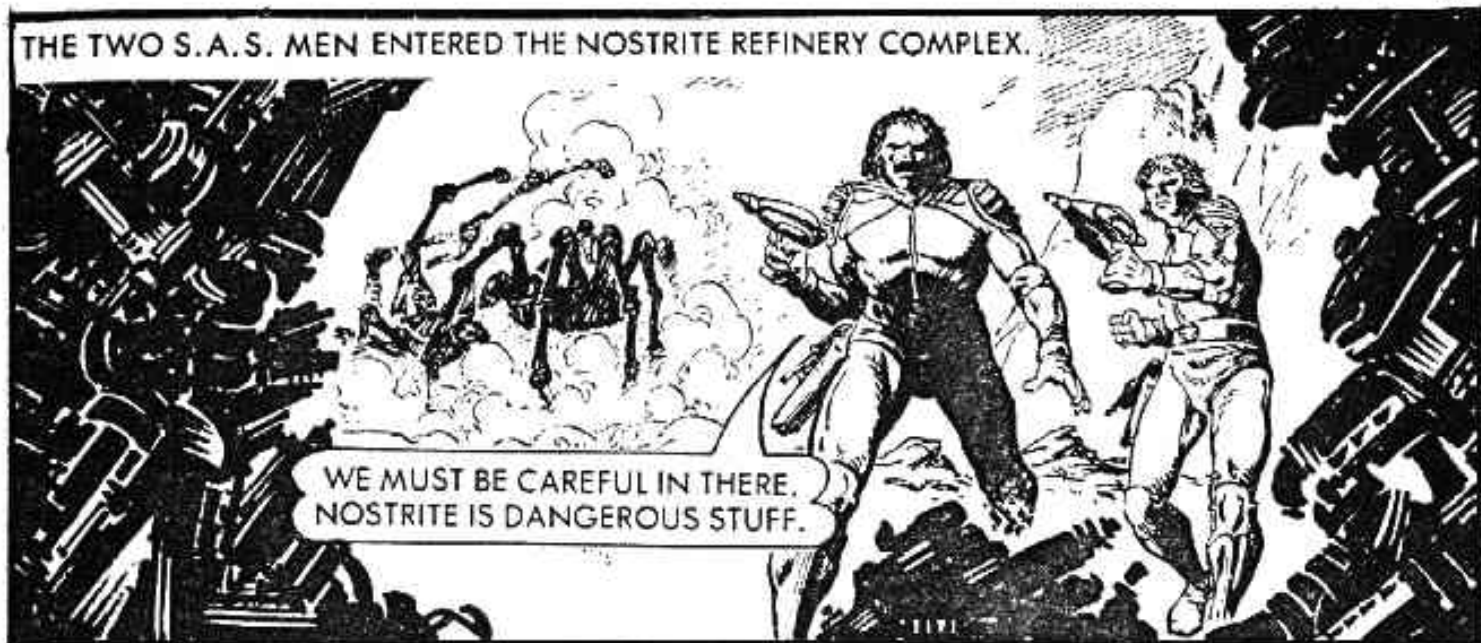
SET TO MAXIMUM FREQUENCY.
TRY AND JAM THEIR SENSORS!

WITH THEIR SENSORS JAMMED, THE
GIANT MECHANICAL SPIDERS
LOCKED IN A DEATH GRIP.

THEY CAN'T DISTINGUISH FRIEND
FROM FOE — THEY'RE ATTACKING
EACH OTHER.



THE TWO S.A.S. MEN ENTERED THE NOSTRITE REFINERY COMPLEX.



THEY FOLLOWED THE TRAIL.

IF THOSE DUCTS RUPTURE,
THE PROTON STREAM WILL
BE LOOSE IN THE COMPLEX.
IT WILL DISINTEGRATE THE
LOT!

I DON'T THINK WE'VE
GOT MUCH TIME.

THERE HE GOES!

HE'S MAKING FOR THE
NOSTRITE COLLECTION POINT.



SUDDENLY THE TWO EARTH MEN
CAME UPON MORE KRELL.

A TELEPORT TERMINAL! THE TERMINAL
MUST LINK WITH ONE OF TUNGAS'
OTHER BASES — THAT'S HOW HE
WOULD TRANSPORT THE UNSTABLE
NOSTRITE WHEN IT WAS NEEDED.

WE HAVE TAKEN GALAXY'S END,
SCORPION. WE DISCOVERED THIS
TELEPORT LINK.

THERE ARE EARTHERS
BEHIND ME. GET THEM!

DROP YOUR WEAPONS,
EARTHERS.

WE HAVE
THEM, SCORPION.

THE REFINING COMPLEX WAS ROCKED BY AN EXPLOSION.



THEY TOOK THEIR CHANCE.

GET THE WEAPONS.





GET THE TELEPORT.



DON'T HIT THE CANISTERS, OR THE WHOLE PLANET COULD GO UP!

THEY'RE DESTROYING THE TELEPORT. I MUST HAVE SOME OF THE PURE NOSTRITE.

EVEN WITHOUT THE PROPULSION SYSTEM, THE NOSTRITE HAD THE POWER TO DESTROY AUS.

THE PROTON STREAM ESCAPING FROM THE DAMAGED DUCT WAS HAVING ITS EFFECT.



THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM — EXCEPT THE SCORPION.

GET OUT OF HERE — THE WALL'S DISINTEGRATING!

THE SCORPION WAITED FOR HIS ENEMIES . . .

FIRST I'LL FINISH THOSE MEDDLING EARTHERS. A PITY I DIDN'T KNOW OF TUNGAS' TELEPORT LINK, BUT NOW IT'S DESTROYED I WILL HAVE TO GET THE NOSTRITE TO GALAXY'S END IN MY CRUISER.

THE SCORPION WAS WAITING AND READY—

THE ATOMORPHIC BEAM —
WATCH OUT!

THIS WILL PUT AN END TO
YOUR CHAMRED LIVES, EARTHERS.

GOODBYE — FOR
THE LAST TIME!

BUT WITH THE DISINTEGRATING REFINERY
EMITTING HUGE CHARGES OF ENERGY THE BEAM
FAILED TO FUNCTION FULLY —

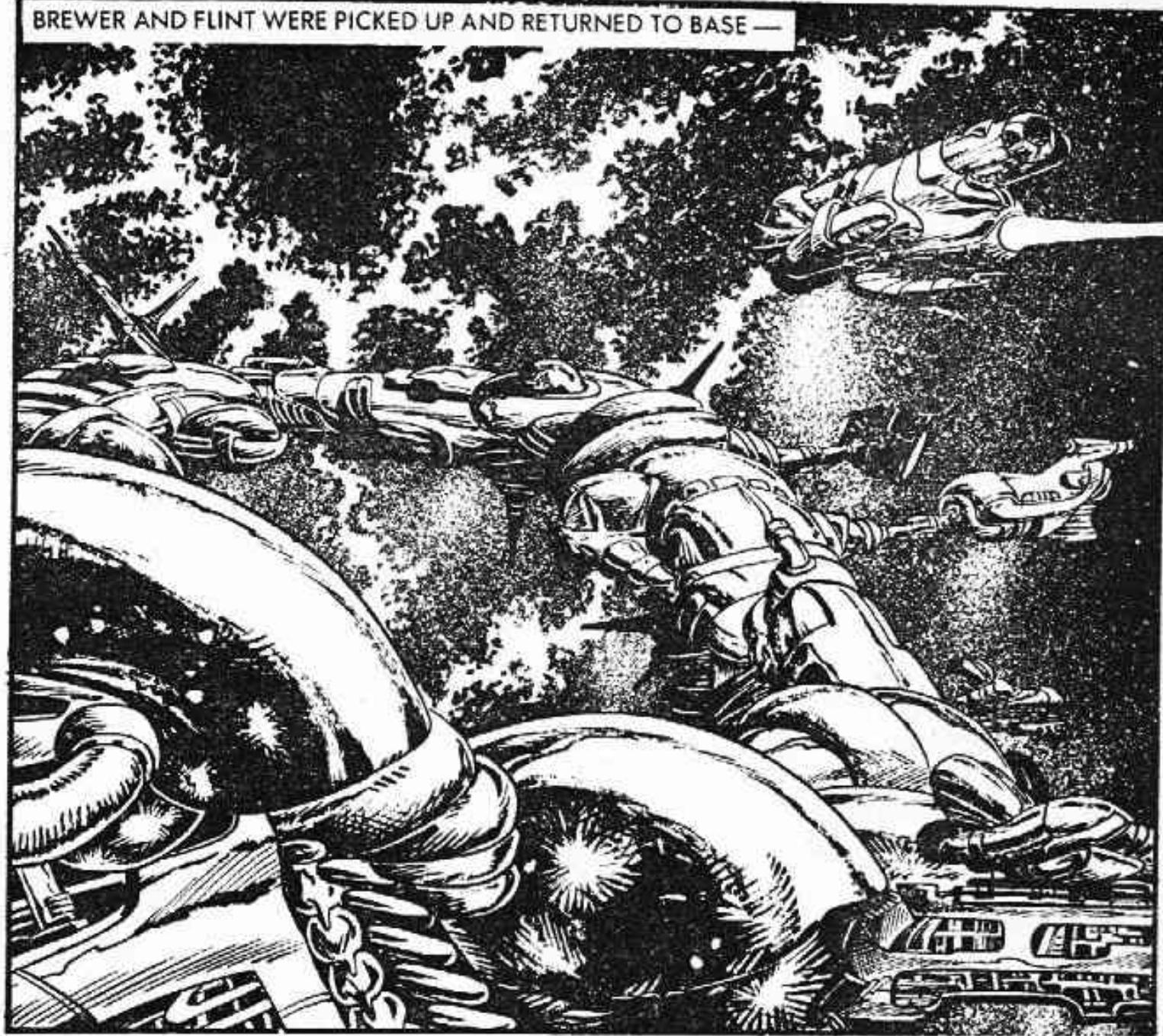
THE SILICON IN THE SAND MUST HAVE
PROTECTED US FROM THE FULL EFFECT OF
THE BEAM.

IT'S A GOOD JOB THE NOSTRITE
DISINTEGRATED ALONG WITH THE
REFINERY.

I SAW THE SCORPION TAKE SOME OF THE
NOSTRITE AND HE'S GETTING AWAY.

ALL WE CAN DO IS SEND OUT A DISTRESS
SIGNAL AND WAIT FOR THE NEAREST
FEDERATION SHIP TO PICK US UP.


BREWER AND FLINT WERE PICKED UP AND RETURNED TO BASE —



THE EARTH FOUNDATION HAD ALREADY RECEIVED AN ULTIMATUM.




THE SCORPION HAS DEMANDED THAT THE FEDERATION SURRENDER TO THE KRELL EMPIRE. OTHERWISE HE WILL DESTROY HALF THE GALAXY, INCLUDING ALL FEDERATION TERRITORY. BUT THANKS TO THESE TWO WE THINK WE KNOW WHERE HE IS.




THERE IS STILL A CHANCE WE CAN STOP HIM. THEY HEARD THE KRELL MENTION AN UNPOPULATED OUTER REGION KNOWN APPROPRIATELY AS GALAXY'S END. A TASK FORCE WILL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

FROM THE BLACK HOLE WHICH HID THE TRANS-DIMENSIONAL STARGATE LEADING TO SPACE ASSAULT SERVICE HQ, A FLEET OF THE FEDERATION'S FASTEST WARSHIPS HEADED FOR GALAXY'S END.



ENGAGE HYPERDRIVE.



GALAXY'S END. WE'RE OUT OF HYPERDRIVE, BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG.

GRAVITATIONAL TURBULENCE — I'VE NEVER KNOWN IT THIS BAD!

THERE IS WORSE TROUBLE TO COME.

IT'S BUILDING UP FOR
A GRAVITY STORM.

LOOK AT THE SCREENS.
SEE WHAT'S DEAD AHEAD OF US!

THAT'S ALL WE NEEDED —
A FULL KRELL WAR FLEET!

OPEN FIRE!

THE KRELL ATTACKED —



THOUGH THE KRELL HAD A LARGER FLEET, THE STORM AFFECTED THEM BADLY —

THE STORM'S GENERATING
A GRAVITY WAVE.

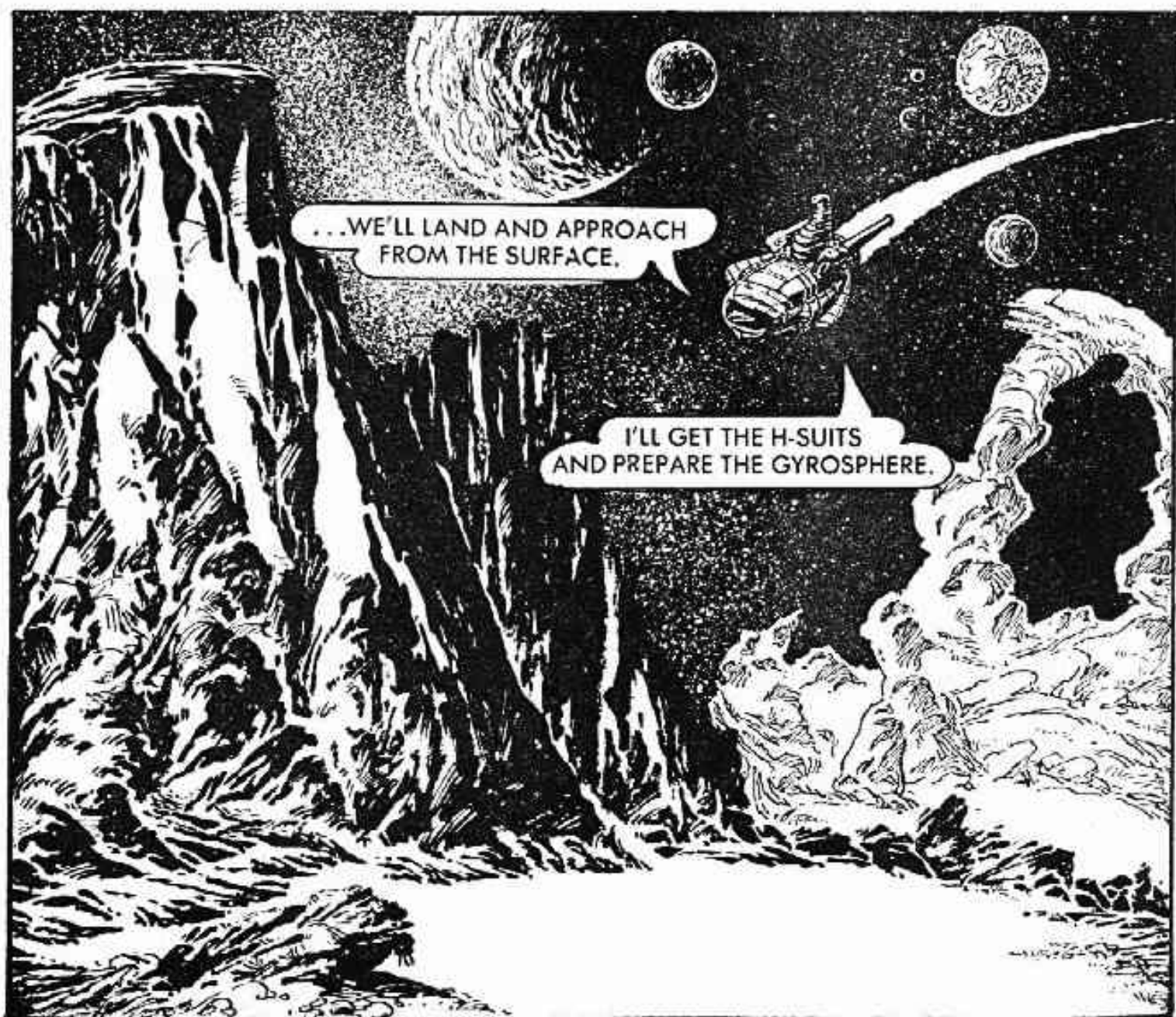
THE DEADLINE SET BY THE SCORPION DREW NEARER.

WE MUST STOP THE LAUNCH OF
THE PROTOTYPE-POWERED MISSILE.

THIS COULD BE OUR CHANCE. IF WE CAN
RIDE THE GRAVITY WAVE, IT COULD
CATAPULT US OUT OF THE BATTLE AREA
AND TOWARDS THE SCORPION'S BASE.

AS THE GRAVITY WAVE STRUCK THE FLEETS,
THE S.A.S. USED ITS POWER TO PUSH THEIR
SHIP FORWARD TOWARDS THEIR GOAL.

HANG ON!



THE GYROSPHERE WAS A VERSATILE SPACE ASSAULT SERVICE SURFACE VEHICLE DESIGNED AS AN ALL TERRAIN SCOUTER.




THEY SET OUT FOR THE ARMS STORE WHICH THEY BELIEVED THE SCORPION HAD TAKEN OVER.

ENEMY CRAFT AHEAD —
THEY LOOK LIKE PAV'S.

MARK II'S — MORE DANGEROUS
THAN THE ONE WE MET ON POLIS III.

THE MARK II PAVS SWEEP IN FOR THE KILL.



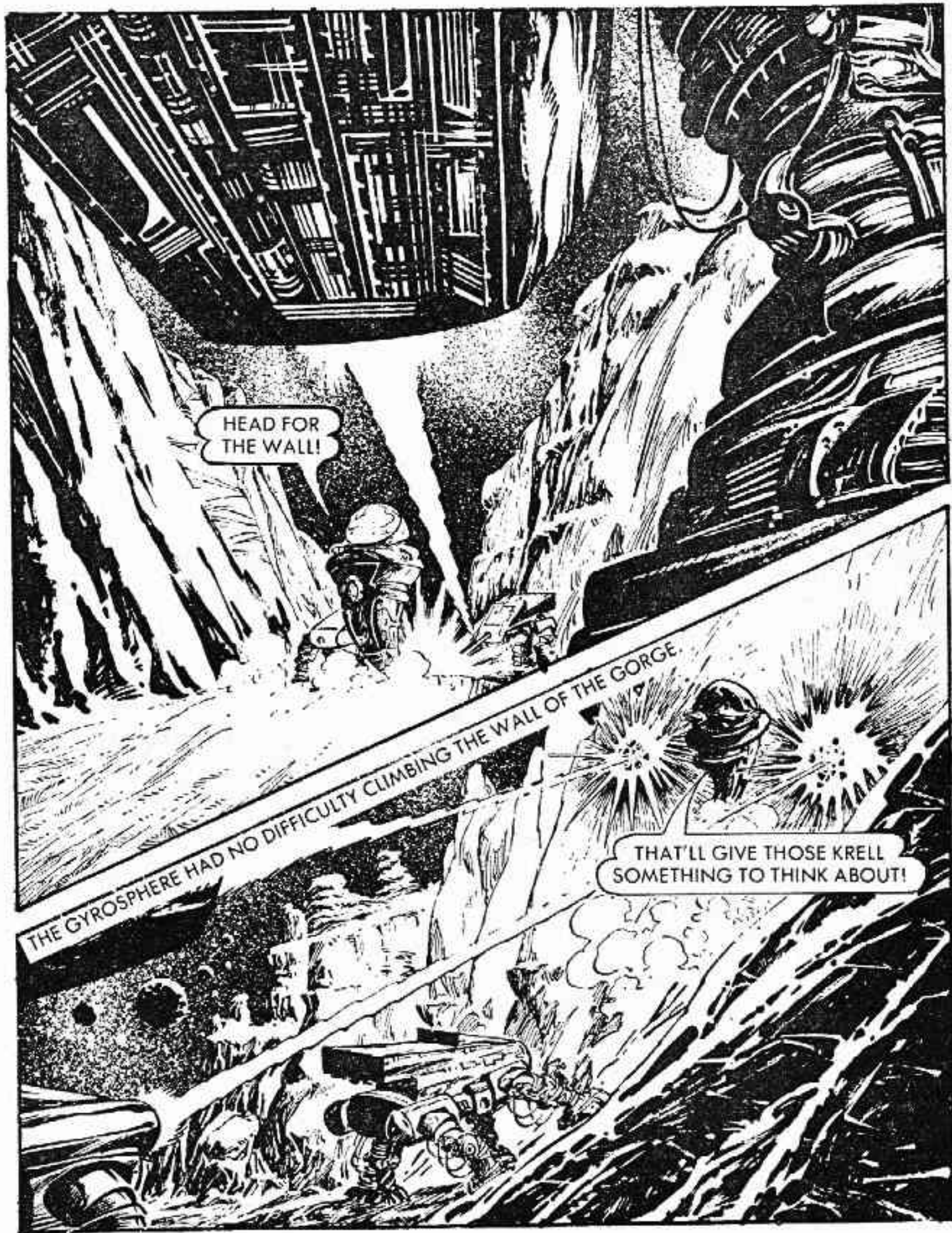
HEAD FOR THAT GORGE AND FORCE THEM TO LAND. IN THE AIR THEY HAVE TOO BIG AN ADVANTAGE!

THE THIRD PAV LANDED AHEAD OF THEM.



THEY'VE GOT US TRAPPED!

THAT'S WHAT THEY THINK!




HEAD FOR
THE WALL!

THE GYROSHERE HAD NO DIFFICULTY CLIMBING THE WALL OF THE GORGE.

THAT'LL GIVE THOSE KRELL
SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

THEY BLASTED THE KRELL PURSUERS.



HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE FOR
THEM TO THINK ABOUT!

WE DON'T WANT ANY MORE DELAYS.
THE DEADLINE'S GETTING CLOSER ALL
THE TIME!

INSIDE THE GYROSHERE—

WE SHOULD SOON SEE THE . . . HEY,
WE'VE STOPPED MOVING!

A NEW KRELL WEAPON.

THEY'RE GRAPPLERS. THOSE PHASER
CORDS ARE VIRTUALLY UNBREAKABLE
AND THEY'LL DRAG US OFF BALANCE.



SHE'S GOING OVER!

TIME TO EJECT!

ONCE OFF BALANCE, THE GYROSHERE WAS DOOMED.

SET THE EJECT-SUITS ON MAXIMUM POWER
— THE GRAPPLERS ARE AFTER US NOW.

THE E-SUITS HAD JET PACKS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO OPERATE
IN THE STRONG GRAVITY NEAR THE PLANET'S SURFACE AS WELL AS IN SPACE.

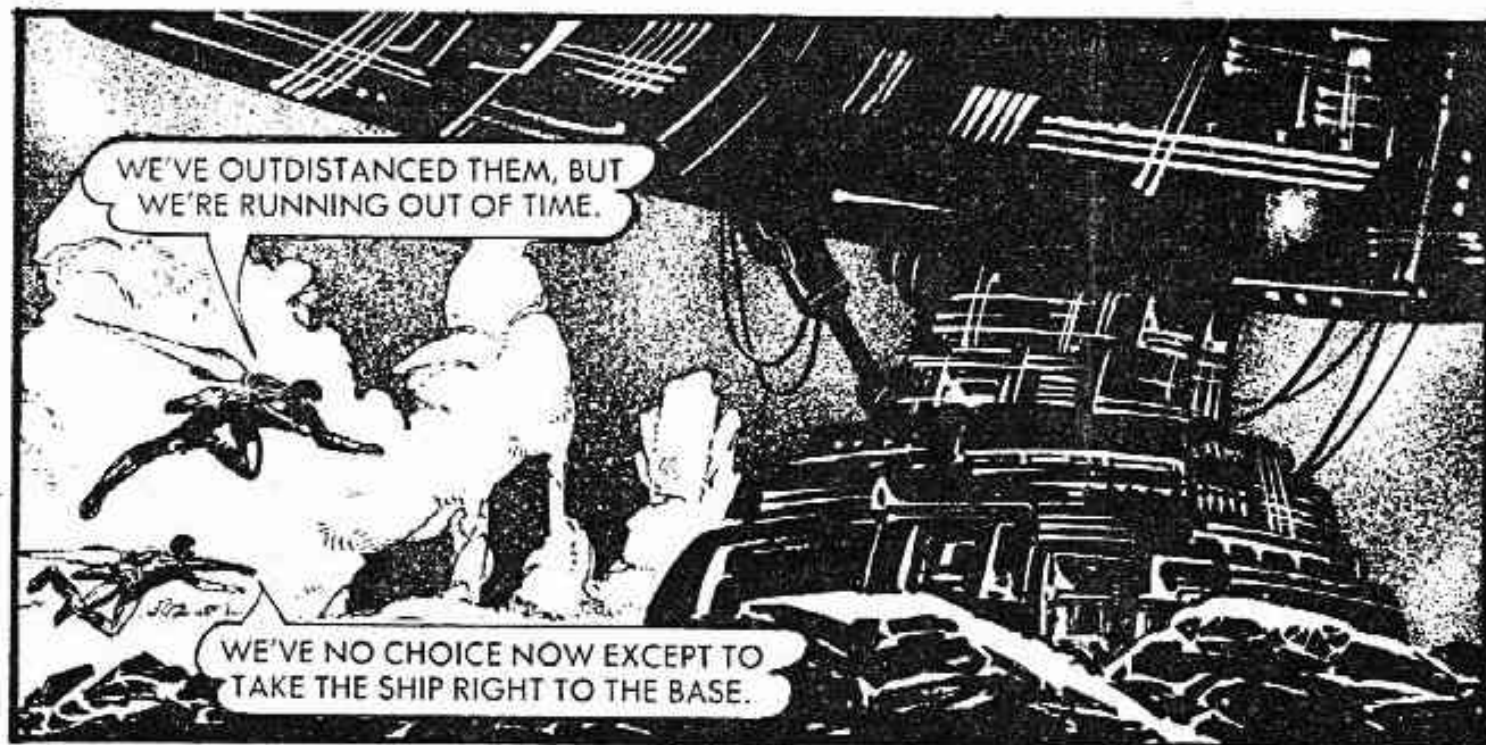
BUT BEFORE THEY COULD JET CLEAR.

LOOK OUT!

THE BLASTER IS USELESS!

IF I'M QUICK ENOUGH,
I CAN SLIP FREE.

HEAD BACK FOR
THE SHIP,
PERHAPS WE
CAN OUTFRAN
THEM.

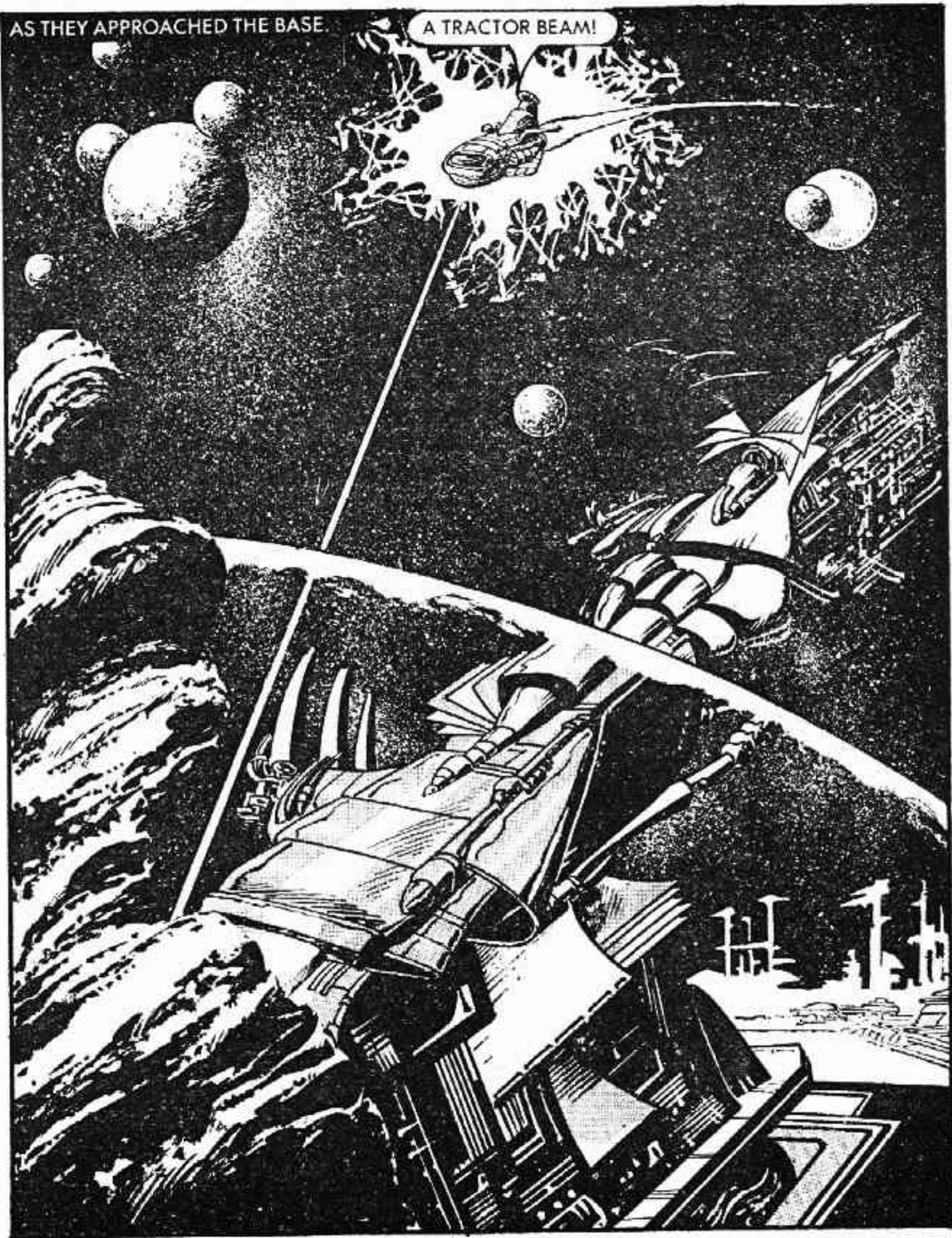


THEY BOARDED THE VESSEL AND BLASTED OFF—



AS THEY APPROACHED THE BASE.

A TRACTOR BEAM!



THE TRACTOR BEAM PULLED THEM TO THE DOME.

ARMoured DRONE UNITS —
THE SCORPION'S SENDING AN ESCORT.



THEY WERE BROUGHT TO THE SCORPION.

YOU TWO JUST WON'T STAY DEAD.
PERHAPS YOU ARE ABOUT TO OUT-LIVE
THE PLANET EARTH!

SURELY EVEN THE KRELL WOULDN'T
DARE DESTROY HALF THE GALAXY.





WE WOULD DARE! THE NOSTRITE IS
ALREADY IN THE MISSILE POWERED
BY THE PROTOTYPE. I MET WITH
TUNGAS, UNDER THE PRETEXT OF
BUYING THE ATOMORPHIC BEAM,
TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION THE
KRELL NEEDED TO TAKE OVER THIS
BASE. IT IS IN THE PERFECT
POSITION TO LAUNCH THE
MISSILE.



I WILL NOW SEND MY FINAL MESSAGE.
IF THE FEDERATION DO NOT SURRENDER,
THE MISSILE WILL BE LAUNCHED AT ITS
TARGET STAR.



REMOVE YOUR BELTS ... YOU
WILL TRY NOTHING MORE.

BREWER HURLED HIS BELT —

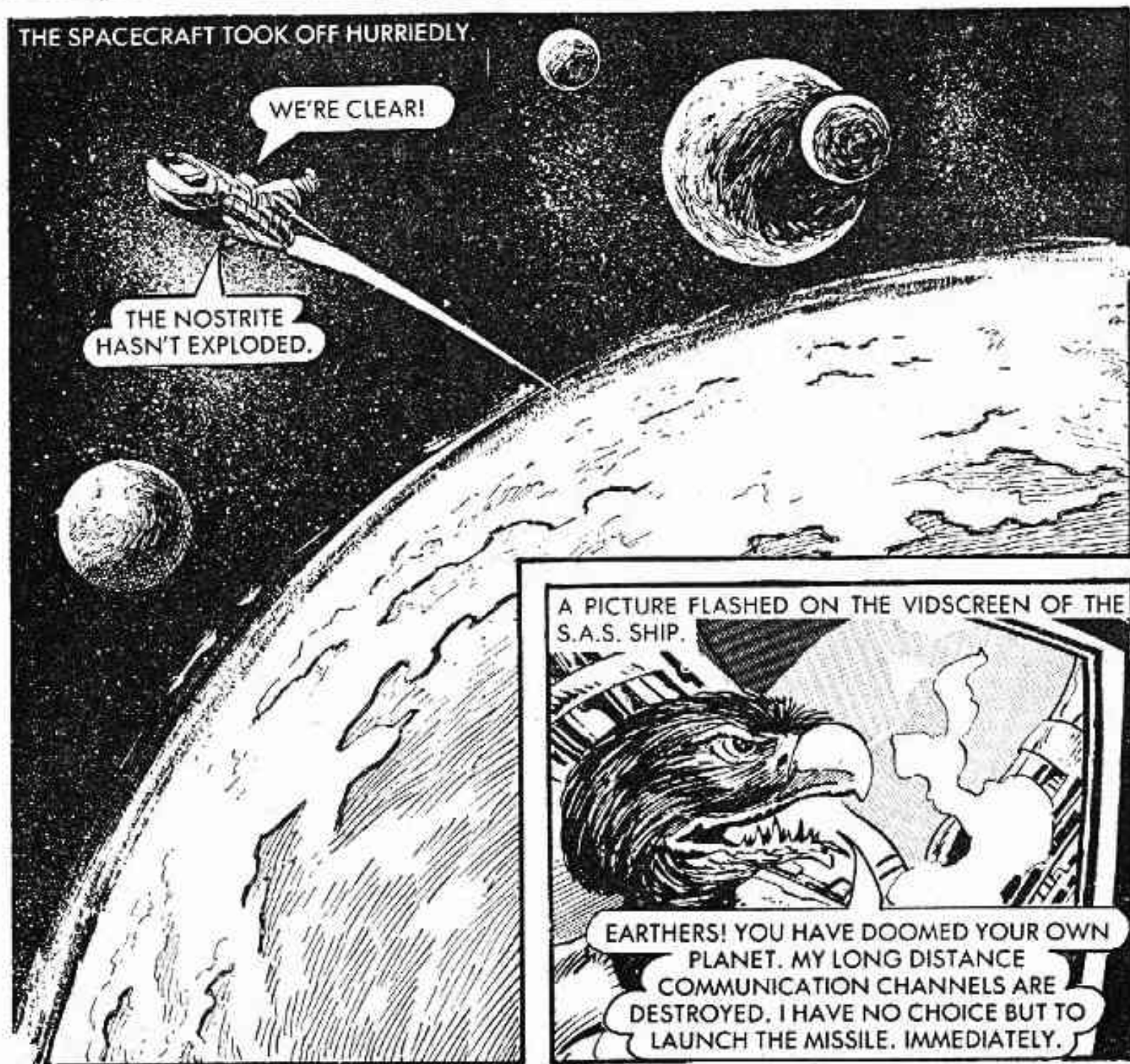


AS A LAST RESORT THEIR WEAPON BELTS WERE DESIGNED TO AUTODESTRUCT.





THE SPACECRAFT TOOK OFF HURRIEDLY.



A PICTURE FLASHED ON THE VIDSREEN OF THE S.A.S. SHIP.

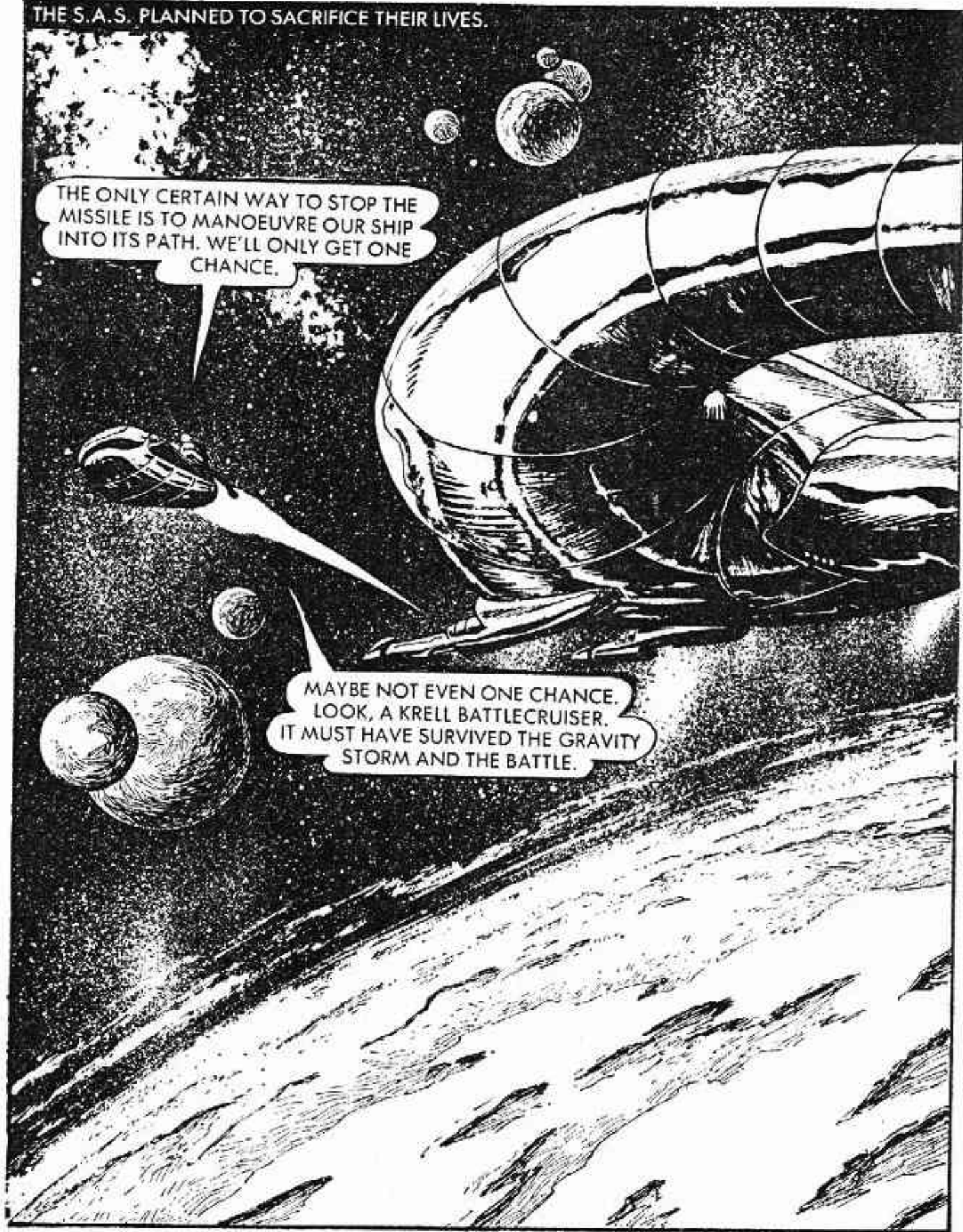



EARTHERS! YOU HAVE DOOMED YOUR OWN PLANET. MY LONG DISTANCE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS ARE DESTROYED. I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LAUNCH THE MISSILE. IMMEDIATELY.

THE S.A.S. PLANNED TO SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES.

THE ONLY CERTAIN WAY TO STOP THE
MISSILE IS TO MANOEUVRE OUR SHIP
INTO ITS PATH. WE'LL ONLY GET ONE
CHANCE.

MAYBE NOT EVEN ONE CHANCE.
LOOK, A KRELL BATTLECRUISER.
IT MUST HAVE SURVIVED THE GRAVITY
STORM AND THE BATTLE.





THAT KRELL SHIP OUTGUNS US.
IF IT OPENS FIRE, WE WON'T
REACH THE MISSILE'S FLIGHT
PATH BEFORE THE
DEFLECTOR SHIELDS GIVE
OUT.

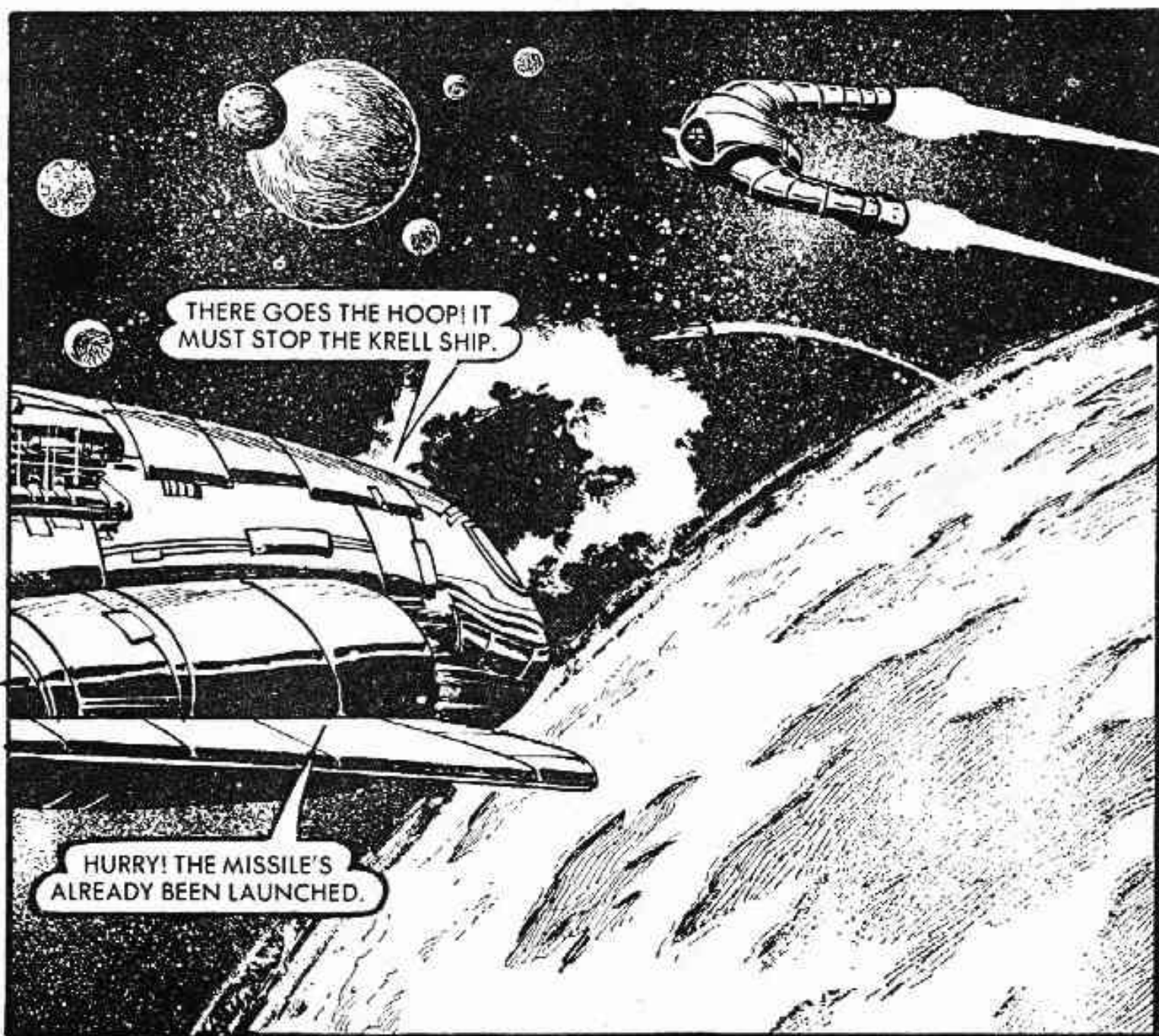
MAYBE THERE'S
ANOTHER WAY.

BREWER HAD A DESPERATE PLAN.



IF WE INCORPORATE PLASMA HOOP
GENERATORS INTO THE DEFLECTOR
SHIELD . . .

THE CIRCUITRY IS BASICALLY THE SAME.
IT COULD WORK. BUT THE SHIP'S
SYSTEMS WILL BE DANGEROUSLY
OVERLOADED.



JUST IN TIME! IF THE PROTOTYPE HAD
BUILT UP ANY MORE SPEED, WE
COULDN'T HAVE CAUGHT IT.




LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, FAST. WHEN
THE HOOP DESTABILISES THE NOSTRITE
WILL EXPLODE.

THE ENTIRE PLANET WILL BE DESTROYED
AND THE SCORPION ALONG WITH IT.



A COURSE SET FOR SPACE ASSAULT SERVICE H.Q., THEY PREPARED TO JUMP INTO HYPERDRIVE.



THE PROTOTYPE'S GONE.
THE GALAXY IS SAFE.

FOR THE TIME BEING!

DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S
OTHER *ACTION-PACKED*
ADVENTURE



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ON
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STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN

78

After two more Soyuz launches with second time crews, number 21 was launched to Salyut 5 on July 6th, 1976. First-time cosmonaut Lieutenant Colonel Vitaly M. Zholobov, 39, Air Force was on board with experienced cosmonaut, Volynov.

